

Homework Introduction

I am looking forward to starting this journey through Exodus with you! It is quite an adventure that we have a head of ourselves. The journey we are taking will give us a fresh new insight into the personality of the God we serve. For many of us the God of the Old Testament can sometimes seem fierce, demanding and at times even unjust. Through this study I think we will all come to see a very different picture of God Almighty. We will discover how much he truly loves his people, wants what is best for them, and wants to be in a deep and abiding relationship with him.

For the next ten weeks we will be studying the book of Exodus. Our primary tools for our study will be the Bible and our study guide. We will be using Exodus from the *Life Change Series*, by Navpress. We will cover two lessons in the study guide each week according to the schedule below. Please note we will be skipping the first lesson and the last lesson. The first lesson is an overview of the entire book of Exodus and the last lesson is a review of the entire book of Exodus. These two lessons are worthy of attention and I do recommend that they be read, but as a consideration for time, I felt it necessary to make them optional to the study. We will spend the first portion of our class time together going over the homework and discussing what we have learned over the week. During the second portion of our time together I will present material relevant to our study. It may be explaining historical context, covering scripture passages not in Exodus, but integral to our study; or presenting material on DVD.

If you have access to the internet, you may find Bible websites useful (www.biblegateway.com is particularly helpful). These websites make it easy to find scriptures quickly either by passage, keyword or topic. These websites also have the added benefit of being able to select from a variety translations to providing additional insight into the meaning of various scriptures.

A good study Bible is helpful, but not essential. The benefits of a study Bible is that it provides textual notations, historical material, maps and other helpful information. I tend to prefer my NIV Study Bible, but frequently turn to the NKJV, the NASB, the Amplified Bible and the Holman Christian Standard Bible, among others. (This is where Biblegateway comes in handy!) I will be supplementing our study guide with additional commentary and hand outs pertaining to upcoming homework lessons at our weekly meetings. This information will also be available on the Living in God's Word website (www.livinginword.org).

During the course of our study we will be watching segments of the documentary “Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses”. This video will bring to life some of the lands and sights we will be learning about in our study.

Class	Assignment from study guide to be discussed:
Week 1	In class Introduction & Video
Week 2	Lessons 2 & 3
Week 3	Lessons 4 & 5
Week 4	Lessons 6 & 7
Week 5	Break
Week 6	Lessons 8 & 9
Week 7	Lessons 10 & 11
Week 8	Lessons 12 & 13
Week 9	Lessons 14 & 15
Week 10	Lessons 16 & 17, & Video

Complete the homework as best as you can, and best as your time allows! God will surely bless you for whatever time you put into your homework. Even if your week (heaven forbid!) doesn't allow you to complete (or even start – now I'm scandalized!) your homework, come to our weekly meeting anyway. You will still benefit from our discussions and hopefully be encouraged to stick with it!

One of the things I have discovered in studying the Bible is that the more I do it, the more I crave it! When I am not in the Word of God for any length of time, short or long, I desperately miss it. I feel out of touch with the One I most adore, I long for Him, and when I get back into his Word I am refreshed, renewed, and I know I have been missed, too! Spending time with Jesus is the most important thing we can do for ourselves and our loved ones. His influence emanates from us and affects those around us. Through us we spread his light to the world. *Lord, let each one of us be a beacon drawing those in the dark closer to you!*